

Peak Season Water Rates Begin in May

As a reminder, peak residential water rates go into effect from **May 16 through September 15, 2004**. Peak rates incorporate a three-tiered rate structure with progressively higher rates as water consumption increases. Third-tier water rates are included in this rate structure (at right).

Why are water rates higher in the summer? Although Seattle generally has plenty of water in the wintertime, we have less precipitation during the summer when demand is highest. During the summer, we depend on water stored in our mountain reservoirs to meet customer demand while leaving enough water in the rivers for fish. Higher summer water rates encourage customers to use water wisely.

From May through September, water use in our region increases 35% to 45%, primarily to irrigate lawns and gardens. Experts estimate that 50% or more of this water goes to waste due to evaporation, runoff, or simply over-watering.

Check out our natural lawn and garden information at www.seattle.gov/util/RESCONS/plantnaturally/ for suggestions about smart watering practices. You may also contact the expert staff at the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline at **(206) 633-0224**.

2004 Residential Water Rates

Water Usage	Inside City Limits	Outside City Limits
Off-Peak Usage (Sept. 16 – May 15)	\$2.53/ccf	\$2.88/ccf
Peak Usage (May 16 – Sept. 15)		
First-Tier: Up to 10 ccf in 60 days	\$2.88/ccf	\$3.28/ccf
Second-Tier: Next 26 ccf in 60 days	\$3.35/ccf	\$3.82/ccf
Third-Tier: Over 36 ccf in 60 days	\$8.55/ccf	\$9.75/ccf

Note: One ccf equals 100 cubic feet or 748 gallons of water.

For more information about peak season water rates or third-tier rates and appeals, please visit

www.seattle.gov/util/services/rates/ or call **(206) 684-3000**.

Water Supply Overview

(As of April 12, 2004)

	Good	Caution	Warning
Current Supply	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Spring Outlook	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
Consumption	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>
River Flows for Fish	<div></div>	<div></div>	<div></div>

The water supply situation and outlook are good despite relatively dry conditions in February, March and April. Full or nearly full reservoirs are expected for the start of summer.

The winter snowpack accumulation in the Cedar basin is about 56 percent of average for this time of year, and about 89 percent of average in the Tolt basin. Significant snow melt-off has occurred since early March, which is rather early.

Chester Morse Lake's water surface elevation is currently about 3.1 feet less than average for this time of year. The South Fork Tolt Reservoir is about 2.9 feet less than average. Stream flows below SPU facilities on the Cedar and South Fork Tolt rivers are presently higher than the guaranteed minimum flow levels for this time of year.

Water consumption for the 7-day period ending April 11 averaged 122 mgd. This average is less than the average of 129 mgd used during the same period over the years 1994-2000.

Customer Service Via the Web

Make Automatic Bill Payments

www2.seattle.gov/html/citizen/ach/

Open or Close Your SPU or City Light Account

www2.seattle.gov/util/services/closeopen/a.asp

Reference Your Collection Calendar

www2.seattle.gov/util/services/calendar/lookup.asp

Report Missed Garbage/Yard Waste/Recycling

www.seattle.gov/util/services/garbage

Report Graffiti

www.seattle.gov/util/ept/graffiti/

Report Illegal Dumping

www.seattle.gov/util/ept/Illegal%20dumping/



Transfer Stations Replace Compactors

Both the North and South Solid Waste transfer stations will have new trash compactors beginning this spring. The new installation is expected to take place at the South station in early May, and the North installation in late May or early June.

Each installation will take approximately two weeks, but customers should not experience service interruptions at either station.

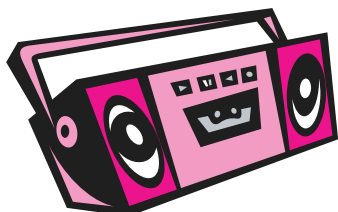
However, delays are possible. Transfer stations managers recommend morning drop-offs for shorter wait times, as afternoons are typically busier.

These compactors will provide better compaction, process more tons per hour and save on repair bills. Please pardon our dust while we complete these upgrades!

Use It Again, Seattle

Don't throw away perfectly good items just because you no longer have room for them. Instead, bring your used items to one of our **Use It Again, Seattle** events. As long as the item is in good condition, we'll take it free of charge.

Residents are also welcome to browse around and take home items they need—for FREE! For a list of event dates and rules, visit www.seattle.gov/util/useitagain/ or call our hotline at (206) 615-0701.



 City of Seattle
Clean Seattle
A better place to live

Join the Clean Seattle Campaign

This spring, join your friends, neighbors, and/or business, church or civic group to help us clean up and improve your favorite public space. The Clean Seattle Campaign includes projects such as monthly "Clean-Sweep Days" and other neighborhood-based programs aimed at keeping our City clean and livable.

To get started, visit www.seattle.gov/util/ept/springclean/ or call the Spring Clean Hotline at (206) 233-7187!

SPU Speakers Available

Would your organization like to learn more about our water supply, recycling, utility rates, drainage planning, urban creeks, salmon friendly gardening or utility volunteer programs? A Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) representative is available to attend your organization's meeting to provide information on topics and programs affecting our citizens and communities. Please contact Ernie Dunston, SPU Speakers Bureau coordinator, at ernie.dunston@seattle.gov or (206) 684-5951 for more information.

